Musket

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Violence at LHS: just a figment of our imagination?

Photo by Eugene Valsky

Violence Hits LHS Along Racial Lines

by
Adam Bund and Matt Kishlansky

Over the past week, a number of incidents with apparently racial overtones have occurred at LHS. Several students have been physically injured, while many others have been left emotionally scarred. Administrators are making every effort to diffuse tensions.

On Friday, September 30, at an unsupervised party, a student, reportedly under the influence of alcohol, made several racial comments at another student present at the party. As the party was broken up, an altercation ensued between several LHS students, including some from the METCO program. Students were injured as the fight progressed to a shoving match. There were reports of students throwing rocks at each other.

The LHS administration was informed of the brawl over the weekend. Despite an appeal to the entire student body made by LHS principal David Wilson early Monday morning to be tolerant, a fight broke out between some of the participants in Friday night's melee. The incident occurred on the steps of the Science building. Eyewitnesses reported that two individuals exchanged words, and then the situation came to blows. Several other one-on-one confrontations have been reported.

Responding to the incidents, Administrators organized an informal discussion group for concerned students and teachers. A more formal meeting was planned for Tuesday, October 3. It continued on Wednesday, at which time mediators from the Massachusetts Association of Mediators were brought in to assist in the discussion.

To soothe parental fears, Wilson mailed a letter dated October 5 to all LHS parents stating that, "We will continue to focus on the safety and welfare of all our students...any actions which are inflammatory in nature will be dealt with swiftly."

Administrators were satisfied with their efforts to diffuse tensions. Assistant Principal Tony Capezza noted, "Monday morning I thought was handled very well. There are two dangers...you don't want to keep people ignorant of the facts...because everyone believes what they hear. On the other hand, you don't want to overreact, because then you can throw gasoline on to a situation."

Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Young noted that, "My phone has been ringing steadily from groups who want to help." Among the groups are the Coalition for Racial Equality and the American Association of University Women who called asking, "How they may help raise consciousness and help build bridges and understanding."

"Right now we're trying to focus on students at the high school and to give them an opportunity to find the problem and try to shape an agenda for change to help deal with the broader issues of living in a diverse community," Young explained.

Most students and faculty admitted to being surprised by the incident. One administrator explained that, "I was surprised by the violence, quite frankly. I'm not so naive as to say that violence can't occur anywhere; it can. But I really thought that as a community this school was dealing with issues better than apparently they were."

Young explained that he felt, "a sense of loss...a lot of the students who got involved in this particular incident may have been puzzled by the way it seems to have played out along racial lines."

Former Math Department Head Arthur Dulong ponders his new position as Assistant Principal of Student Affairs. See story on page 3.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

Pep Rally Bolsters Student Body Spirit

by
Kiran Raj and Jerry Titus

The school spirit of Lexington High was at its peak the night of September 23rd as students from every class took part in a "Fall Sports Rally" for LHS athletes. Assistant principal Arthur Dulong was adamant about calling the night a Fall Sports Rally as opposed to the traditional Pep Rally because, "It was not a full blown pep rally," Dulong said. "Although it was not a full blown pep rally, it was the first time we have had anything similar to it, and I was very happy with the turnout." Between 300 and 400 students were expected, but no one predicted that over 500 students would be on hand to show their support for the Lexington High School Fall Athletic Teams.

All participants of the fall sports teams were present to show their appreciation not only for their fellow athletes at LHS but also to their fellow students who cheer them on. Although the co-captains stepped forward to say a few inspirational words to their respective teams, it was evident that they were addressing every student in attendance.

Arguably the highlight of the night were the prophetic words by the co-captains of the football team, Frank Carlow and Pete Agnes. Carlow inspired his teammates and the school by stating that the upcoming home game versus Woburn would be an opportunity for LHS to avenge their previous losses. Pete Agnes was far more upbeat as to Lexington's chances against perennial powerhouse Woburn. Agnes said in his booming voice at the rally, "We're going to kick the Tanners butt!" His words did indeed prove to be prophetic as the football team handed Woburn a 13-6 thumping on Sunday in what was arguably the greatest win in Lexington football history.

In the opinion of some students, the cheerleaders stole the show with their incredible acrobatics and their ability to work the crowd over. Their lively performance set the tone for the rest of the evening. Excitement and applause only escalated as the cheerleaders took the

New Policy Sets Limit on Absence

by
Jamie Lee and Rupa Mukherjee

A pilot policy regarding attendance has been proposed and formulated by the English Department. The mandates of the pilot plan state that if a student misses 25% of a course in one quarter, he/she will receive an F for that quarter. The objective of the policy is to prevent students from missing time spent in class which the English department feels is essential for the student's learning.

This is the first year that Lexington High School has formally decided to experiment with the idea of a more rigid attendance policy. The initial interest in this policy originated from a successful attendance plan established at Newton North High School. The administration at Newton North

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Sumner F. Richards, Jr. 1934-1994
"Thankfully, the memory of Sumner Richard's contributions to all our lives will continue to live on in our minds forever."

Photo Courtesy of Bruce Mallory

Lexington Mourns Loss of Teacher and Friend

by
Dan MacLean

On Friday, September 23, a funeral was held for 33 year veteran science teacher Sumner F. Richards who died on September 17, 1994. Mr. Richards was noticed to be missing the previous Saturday night when he did not return to his sailboat in Camden harbor, and on Sunday was found to have drowned near the dock where his boat had been tied on Saturday. All who knew him were devastated.

Even down to the babies crying from the balcony, the funeral was beautiful, and an excellent environment in which to honor the man Sumner Richards. There were close to 200 people in attendance at the First Methodist Church on The Great Road in Bedford, and the house was packed. Those who came to pay tribute to the much loved Richards were his family, his colleagues, his students, and his friends.

A sophomore who attended the funeral, recollects her experiences with Richards as a teacher and friend: "We would always come to school early...at around 7:30 just to talk to him. Mr. Richards would have the radio playing and he'd tell us stories. He was a really great teacher, and a really nice guy."

A current senior stated, "It's too bad that something like this has to happen to such a great guy. Mr. Richards was one of my all time best teachers. He motivated me and he made science interesting to me."

> "[Richards was] a catalyst for the dormant scientific brains of middle-schoolers, as a champion of electronic do-dads, and as a friend.

Teachers such as Frank Meehan and Royal Doughty fondly remembered their experience working with Sumner Richards in the science department of Clarke. They described him as a catalyst for the dormant scientific brains of middle-schoolers, as a champion of electronic do-dads, and as a friend. When Meehan walked in on Richards one day and discovered Richards had sat on his new computer notebook, he wondered why Sumner was not very affected emotionally. " 'Life goes on.' he said. And he was right."

One of Sumner Richard's best friends depicted him in a story about Richards life long love of SAAB automobiles. One day in 1968 Richards and his friend set out early to drive up to Maine in Mr. Richard's ancient SAAB. Half way to Maine the SAAB's water pump broke. Miles from any noticeable civilization, Richards didn't even worry to open the hood and inspect the damaged part. He simply asked his friend for a rubber band. Within minutes he managed to fix the pump and they were once again on their way. A year after their adventure, the friend asked jokingly if Richards had finally gotten a new pump. "No," Sumner replied, "but I replaced the rubber band." And he was serious.

Thankfully, the memory of Sumner Richard's contributions to all our lives will continue to live on in our minds forever.

English Dept. Test Policy

Continued From Page 1

emphasized the policy's effectiveness by stating that, "the attendance policy at Newton North is very successful in curbing unnecessary absences." Since the English Department saw the success of this policy, it wanted to adopt a similar plan. Since this is a "pilot," it will not be implemented without regard to specific cases. Principal David Wilson and English Department Head Scott Webber will evaluate individual cases which are in conflict with the policy. Mr.. Wilson further elaborated, "We have to look at each case to better understand the ramifications of extenuating circumstances."

Supporters of this policy believe that presence in school is inherently important. They feel that even if a student is unwilling to participate in class discussion, this student will naturally absorb invaluable information which could never be repeated after class. The college resident requirement is one example which affirms the importance of a student's physical presence in a classroom. This requirement states that a college student must be in class for a certain amount of time. She does not have the freedom to miss the majority of her classes and take only the exams. Dr. Shohet was particularly vocal about this point when he remarked," Teachers are threatened and annoyed by the notion that time spent in class is unimportant."

A common rebuttal to this argument states that it is unfair to fail a student who proves her understanding of missed material by receiving high grades on tests or quizzes. Dr. Shohet voiced his disagreement of this argument when he said, "Why not take all AP courses and graduate from high school? High School is more than the accumulation of credit."

An additional concern of the English Department is that a student who is absent not only misses invaluable class discussion but is also unable to contribute his/her ideas for the benefit of the other students in the class. A strong belief among teachers is that time spent in class should be so important that a student would not want to miss the class. Mr. Webber elaborated, "Learning in the community of a classroom is extremely important for the student since so many ideas are exchanged which could never be retold once class is over." This would force a student into reconsidering extended absences such as trips. In order for a student to want to stay in a class, teachers have a reciprocal obligation in inciting curiosity in there students. As Mrs. Peg Schwartz added, 'If a student misses 20% of a class and still does well, maybe the classes should be more valuable so that the person cannot comprehend the course without it. The class should be something which the student can not afford to miss."

Despite the positive aspects of the attendance policy, it seems to be a contradictory policy. Primarily, the high school encourages students to be involved in various activities while at the same time punishing those same students for missing too much class time. When questioned about this point, Webber replied, "Students who are involved in many extracurricular activities will have to exercise responsibility. This will allow them to become more mature and responsible."

> "I hate to think that verbal means are the only way to assess a student's understanding..."
>
> *—Peg Schwartz*
> *Biology Teacher*

Others who are directly opposed to the policy question the need for failing a student who proves her understanding of the material on exams. Schwartz addressed this point when she remarked, "I hate to think that verbal means are the only way to assess a student's understanding, especially if a student can demonstrate her understanding on tests."

It is surprising that the Senate was not consulted about the attendance policy. Shohet contributed his opinion on this point when he remarked that it would have been, "Politically wise to discuss such things in the Senate." The attendance policy is an issue which is definitely in the scope and jurisdiction of the Senate. Article VI Section I of the Lexington High School Senate constitution affirms this point stating that, "All matters of concern to the school community are appropriate for consideration by the Senate." Regardless, the English Department felt that there was no need to discuss this policy in the Senate.

Math teacher Kevin Kelly contemplates adjusting the scale on his last examination.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

News Briefs

LEXNET RESUBMITS AD

The Lexington Parents Information Network (LEXNET), a group of Lexington citizens committed to increasing the quality of education in Lexington schools, has resubmitted an advertisement promoting abstinence as, "the Healthy Choice," to the LHS *Musket*. Last year's *Musket* staff rejected the advertisement due its opinion nature.

LEXNET proceeded to file suit against Superintendent Jeffrey Young, Principal David Wilson, and Musket advisor Sam Kafrissen among others. An injunction which would have forced publication of the ad in last year's graduation issue was denied by U.S. District Court Judge Richard Stearns. An appeal of the injunction is scheduled to appear in District Court on November 10.

SPACE CRUNCHES LABB

The LABB program may become a casualty of increasing enrollment and have to move according to superintendent Jeffrey M. Young. "It appears there may be a space crunch at the high school in a couple of years," Young noted.

LABB has 153 students enrolled in its program. It occupies approximately eight classrooms, while half the students work on job sites. LABB's Director is Robert Renna.

BAND CONCERTS SCHEDULED

Jazz Night I is scheduled for November 16, 1994. It will feature all the Jazz classes including the much acclaimed Jazz Combo. Senior Matt Schick predicts the show will be, "Jazzy."

The Fall Band Concert, featuring the Wind Ensemble, is scheduled for November 19, 1994 at the Museum of Our National Heritage.

The Concert may feature a guest soloist from the Boston Pops Orchestra.

YELLAND WINS AWARD

Mr. Winston Yelland, Earth Science teacher at the High School, was recently recipient of the Lexington "Exemplary Teaching" award. "I come in every day trying to give 100 percent. I enjoy what I'm doing, an I like the kids,"Yelland stated.

"Exemplary Teaching" awards are given out annually based on recommendations from a committee composed of other teachers.

Compiled by
Armen Zohrabian

As Senior Senator Jonas Woolverton tries to bring this Senate Committee to order, Moderator Dan MacLean and his brother Robert refuse to listen.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

Students React to New School Rules

by
Elizabeth Goldmann and Leah Platt

Two new regulations have restricted students' rights at Lexington High School this year. Walkmans are no longer permitted in school and there is a new attendance policy concerning English classes. Any student who is absent from 25% or more English classes during any given quarter will automatically receive an "F" in the course, regardless of whether or not the absences are excused.

The new walkman policy is disturbing to both students who have become accustomed to listening to music while working during study hall as well as those who are simply concerned with students' general rights at Lexington High.

Seniors Carin Lee and Caroline Tsai agreed. "Just as long as they're not bothering anyone, who cares?" they said. Some students, however, agree with the new regulation, citing walkmans as both an unnecessary enjoyment during detentions and a disruption during study hall. "You disturb other people so that they can't concentrate. Detentions are supposed to be a punishment," stated junior Ceylon Ayasli.

The English class attendance policy also concerns many students who believe that the regulation unfairly punishes students who participate in extra-curricular activities such as debate or partial internships which may mandate numerous absences during a given quarter.

Junior Steve Pawlicek says that the new regulation "penalizes people who do activities...it's awful." Junior Stephanie McCarthy asks, "Why is it only English and not other classes?" Senior Courtney Walton agrees, saying, "If it applies to English it should apply to everything."

Senior Amy Lowenthal finds the regulation unnecessary, stating, "As long as students make up their missed work there doesn't need to be a rule to control their absences."

Dulong Must Fill Robinson's Shoes

by
Amy Lowenthal

It was the first day of school, and all the upperclassmen were relaxing in homeroom, preparing themselves for their new classes. All of the sudden they hear the PA system turn on, and instead of the familiar "Buenos Dias" they were used to, they heard the voice of new Assistant Principal Art Dulong who succeeded Mr. Robinson when he left to be the principal of Littleton High School. Although we all miss Mr. Robinson's familiar 'Attention on the Beach!" we are enthusiastic about Mr. Dulong's new residence in the SAC.

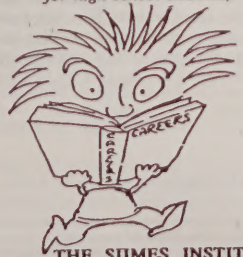
Dulong is excited about this new challenge, and enthusiastic about his new position. He likes many aspects of his new job, especially the "broad variety of kids" that pass through and hang out in the SAC. He believes there is a real "cross section" of kids from all different groups at LHS, and he likes getting to know all of these kids.

Dulong misses the actual teaching. He really enjoyed being "in the classroom" but feels this is a "different type of challenge." He feels the problem solving he must do in the SAC is more challenging than his job as Department Head of the math department. He believes the math department problems are more "focused" and are all of the "same nature." The SAC, on the other hand is, "more diverse" and therefore more challenging.

When asked about possible changes he

"Dulong" Continued on page 6

"PATHWAY TO ACHIEVEMENT": A SEMINAR
(designed specifically for high school students)



What should I study in college?

What career am I aiming for?

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New Groups Sprout at LHS Activities Fair

by
Margot Minardi

It's a month into the school year, and most LHS students have finally gotten their schedules straightened out. Yearbook meeting in the morning, Musket interview during free block, Model UN meeting during X-block, followed by soccer practice, then an Amnesty meeting just before the evening jazz concert. Activities accumulate until the hours spent at school outnumber those spent sleeping by at least ten to one. Who says high school life is dull?

Certainly not the many students who represented several dozen clubs at this year's Student Activities Fair, where freshmen and sophomores could learn about and sign up for various extra-curricular activities and organizations. Several freshmen interviewed noted that the Activities Fair was a good way to get students interested in activities. They also commented that the extra-curricular opportunities at the High School were much more diverse and interesting than those offered at the middle schools. Senior Sarah Rahman, who observed the fair from her post at the Folio table, exclaimed that the students visiting the fair, "seemed enthusiastic about everything!" Reflecting the upbeat response of most fair attendees, freshman Christa Semerjian remarked that she had, "signed up for a lot of stuff."

The Activities Fair mirrored the range of interests of students at LHS. In addition to the favored and familiar clubs such as Amnesty International, LEAF, and the LHS news Exchange, several new organizations were represented at the fair. In one corner of the room, junior Mike Wallerstein, president of LHS Choice, explained that he wanted to bring pro-choice activism back to Lexington High School. He hoped to interest students in learning clinic defense and education others about abortion. Not far away, huge red, white, and blue signs demanded votes for incumbent Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Although officially non-partisan, the LHS Political Forum, which provided the posters, boasts a primarily Democratic membership. The focuses of this recently formed group are Kennedy's re-election campaign and general political involvement. Participation is also an objective of the Community Service Club, created this year to locate volunteer opportunities for high school students. Even though the club attracted mainly students who were concerned about accumulating community service for credit, the founders, seniors Lucy Brank, Sam Handlin, and Camille MacGregor, explained that they started the group simply because they found volunteer work enjoyable and rewarding.

Some new clubs appealed to the more athletically inclined. In addition to choreographing a program to perform with the Jazz Ensemble, the Dance Club intends to revive Dance Fantasia, a performance extravaganza that died out three years ago. The Frisbee Club, born just one day before the Activities Fair, drew many potential members. According to junior Jon Shank, club co-founder, the goals of the Frisbee club are "to have fun" and relieve boredom.

Several groups that were started last year got off to a strong start by adding many freshmen and sophomores to their membership lists. The leaders of Out Together And Sober (OTAS) proposed multiple potential activities to students who were interested in having a good time without drugs or alcohol. Two year-old groups represented at the fair are concerned with issues of sexual identity. Students for the Awareness of Sexual Stereotypes (SASS) focuses on education, including efforts to inform faculty and students about homophobia, AIDS, and sexual orientation through speakers, counselors, and a new resource center in E-house. The ambitious leaders of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Students (Bi-GLASS) want to hold frequent meetings this year to serve as a support group for any students who need a safe, comfortable environment for discussion of sexual identity.

Cultural diversity and awareness are clearly gaining importance in the United States. With several different clubs targeted toward understanding other cultures, LHS is right on top of the trend. Senior Karen Marcovici, president of the International Students Association, described her club as "open to anyone" of any background with an interest in sharing the tradition, ideas, cuisine, and culture of different ethnic groups.

The French Club attracted a mass of freshman, perhaps due to advisor Karen Girondel's message that the "club is what the members make it." It's an appealing idea that's applicable to all the many clubs and organizations run by and for the students of LHS.

French teacher Karen Girondel thinks of the day when Avignon will be more than just a vision.

Photo from Musket File

Racism Must Be Addressed Fundamentally

Three years ago, in response to the Rodney King verdict, Dan Michaelson wrote the following editorial for the Musket's 1992 Graduation Issue. Although the characters have changed, the roles and problems have stayed the same. The recent violent and racial incidents at the High School have provoked an administrative response based on "Unity Vigils" and "mediation." Among the students and parents of LHS it has prompted and even sharper division between the races. The following editorial is now more applicable then ever...

At Lexington High School, we are fairly quick to respond to social issues. No Cafeteria table is complete without at least one Earth Day insulated reusable lunch bag, and we all remember the many homeroom food drives of the past.

This widespread social responsibility is admirable and important. However, there is one particular problem that we need to move beyond giving superficial lip-service to; instead, we need to take real local action.

The acquittal of four white police officers in California on charges of using excessive force when arresting black motorist Rodney King last year, and the ensuing riots in Los Angeles and elsewhere, have presented a national crisis that cannot easily be dispensed of with a few clichés or a slogan. We at LHS seem to be trying awfully hard to do so.

This attitude is disturbing because it is we and our families here in Lexington and in town like it who are responsible for the beating, the verdict, and the riots, more than anyone else except the participants themselves.

Few people want to see themselves as racists. A look around our community, however, would reveal that much of what we think and do here is based on certain widespread prejudices. Solving the problems of racial and economic harmony demands at least a recognition of the issues involved.

Unfortunately, the officially planned activities of the "Conscious Awareness Day" at the high school proved to be only somewhat less trite than the day's name.

Although it is extremely important that we stop to think about the crisis, Conscious Awareness Day seemed mostly to give several speakers the opportunity to exacerbate the problem by blaming other people, by stopping short of the real issues, or by pretending that there is no problem at all.

Everyone who accuses the jurors of being racists and then stops talking is denying the more deep-rooted racism that separates Lexington from Boston along a color line so sharp that METCO students must be bused in to provide any integration at all.

We try to pay as little attention as possible to the city we left and the problems we left with it. Every time we avoid the city because we feel we don't belong there, we help fulfill the prophecy of urban blight.

Everyone who focuses the discussion of the riots on the question of the police officers' innocence or guilt is refusing to discuss far more significant and lasting problems that lead people in cities to loot and destroy their own communities.

Everyone who stops after asking, "Why can't we all be friends?" probably know what the answer is. As residents of a community where that number of local black high school-age students can be counted on the fingers of hone hand, we must realize that as long as we continue to dismiss the city as a crime-ridden and destitute area, it will continue to be so.

As long as our view of Boston is shaped by stories of hopelessness and shooting on Eyewitness News, we will continue to dismiss Bostonians as lost causes, criminals, not suburban, different from us.

This needs to stop, because they are not different. For one reason or another, most of our middle-class families left the cities to lie in the suburbs. Now, we try to pay as little attention as possible to the city we left and the problems we left with it.

Every time we avoid the city because we feel we don't belong there, we help fulfill the prophecy of urban blight. There is a lot more to Boston that "New jack City," and when we ignore the positive aspects of the city and its inhabitants, those people become the antagonists in a partly fictional image each of us has internalized to help us feel more comfortable in suburbia.

This problem is not somebody else's. It is our own.

-Dan Michaelson

Simon Sez . . .
by: Dave Myung 9-30-94
WHAT? WHY NOT? WHATS WRONG WITH THESE??
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM? ARE THESE REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR SENIOR PICTURE CHOICES?!
GET REAL, YOU NEED A PROFESSIONAL JOB
Please?
NO
Camp
Snip
Bleah
Chop
C'mon Simon haircut... you wear your glasses look nice... hair fix a Put some on Simon ones
Get a shield they Comb your mess... Clothes nice
cheese.
OKAY, SAY CHEESE!
SIMON SEYMOUR SEZ
"I'd Like to thank the Yearbook Staff and Burlington Studios for making my LAST YEARBOOK PICTURE EXACTLY THE WAY I WANTED IT!"
HAHAHA, is that YOU SIMON??!! HAHA
NO, It's not me AT ALL.

Yearbook Kills Individuality

In its epic movie, The Wall, rock group Pink Floyd depicts vivid and frightening images of scholastic conformity in the song "Another Brick In The Wall Part II." Students are shown being produced on a factory assembly line. The students sit rigid and emotionless at their desks, wearing crude masks which make them all look alike. The images may seem far-fetched and unrealistic, but the same principle of oppressive, senseless conformity is behind the yearbook committee's decision to force seniors to have their pictures taken at Burlington Studios.

According to one of the yearbook editors, the yearbook's contract with Burlington Studios states only that seniors cannot have their pictures taken at another studio. Nowhere in the contract is it even implied that students cannot submit their own photographs. The yearbook committee itself decided to restrict students from taking their own pictures.

The same editor said that the yearbook committee wanted the senior section to look more uniform than in past years. Perhaps the committee thought that the integrity of the yearbook would be forever ruined if students were allowed to submit their own pictures. Rather than run the risk of giving students the option of portraying themselves through their own pictures, the yearbook committee decided that the senior section would look better if all the pictures were in exactly the same format.

This policy is senseless and oppressive. The yearbook committee could have set simple guidelines concerning the size and content of student photographs. The committee easily could have checked the pictures to make sure that nothing inappropriate was depicted. The yearbook already allows students to submit their own candid pictures. Why can we not submit pictures for the senior section? Many seniors do not think that they will be portrayed accurately by the photography of Burlington Studios. The yearbook committee decided that these seniors do not have the right to dictate how they are to be remembered.

Lexington High School is supposed to be an institution that encourages independent thought. In addition to teaching students factual information, the school attempts to teach students to solve problems creatively and to think for themselves. The school prepares students for life after high school by training them to make their own decisions confidently and competently. Yet, the yearbook committee's policy concerning senior pictures shows that it does not value the capacity for individual thought and creativity that the school has attempted to cultivate in every senior. The yearbook committee's suppression of personal expression is an outrage. Again, the words of Pink Floyd apply: "We don't need no thought control."

—Sam Handlin

Don't Just Read...

React!

Submit Letters to the Editor in the *Musket* box in the SAC or Mail to 251 Waltham St. Care of the *Musket*.

Musket

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Photographers ..... Eugene Valsky, Jay Premack

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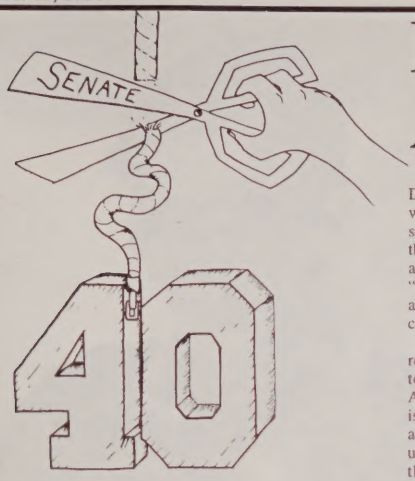

English Department Must Abolish Attendance Policy

Reasons abound for the abolition of the new English Department attendance policy. The policy states that students who miss more than 25% of their English classes for any reason fail that quarter of English. Although seemingly benign the policy contains many internal flaws that make it unworkable. In fact, the policy may actually contribute to the very "attendance fraud" it tries to curb while at the same time creating an environment counter to the continuation of true educational improvements.

As explained by the English faculty that support the new regulation, the discussions in English class are fundamental to proper understanding of the material learned in class. Apparently the communication and feedback from classmates is essential to learning, but at the same time irreproducible on any test or examination. The problem with this notion of the uniqueness of class discussion is that it proves the failure of the attendance policy. When a student is fraudulently excused it is almost certainly because that student can think of better things to do with his time than attend classes. But how could a student resist such intellectually enriching class discussions? If class time was so fulfilling and exciting certainly there would be no problem attracting students to come to class 100% of the time. Apparently, the problem with school attendance is not the attendance at all, but rather the lack of enriching class discussion. School policies should not force students into dull and uninteresting classes. Rather, they should try to upgrade the quality of the discussions to make classes attractive to students and thus resistant to fraud. This policy does nothing to deal with the fundamental problems with our current educational model that make learning not fun. It just uses lack of attendance as a scapegoat goat to avoid looking at a much broader and much more fundamental problem with our schools.

Several serious harms come from the new attendance policy. First, it punishes invalid absences at the expense of punishing some valid absences. The old system guaranteed no punishment for all those who have legitimate reasons for missing school. Due to this lax approach system abuse was prevalent.

> The attendance policy put forth this year by the English Department certainly tries to tackle a serious problem. Unfortunately, it misses the mark completely. It does not affect members of the student body that practice attendance fraud.

The new system bluntly states that it is more important to stop abuse than to be fair. Debaters, science fair entrants, and exchange program participants will all be punished for their extracurricular activities. Although they probably will not miss 25% of their English classes with these activities alone, mix in a couple of legitimate sick days and those students will fail their classes. In situations where legitimate absence claimants might be abused it seems best to err on the side of caution if there is any chance the system will fail to meets it intended purpose. In this case there seems to be overwhelming evidence that the new system will fail. Thus, the undue burden it places on the innocent seems enough to justify its elimination.

Of course, an appeals process is in place to deal with those that do have legitimate reasons for extended absence from school. However, given the nature of the offense that theoretically requires the attendance policy an appeals process by definition will fail. The school needs the policy to stop certain parents from lying about their children's' absences. Given this offense, why would any parent stop when confronted with an appeal. Parents that are willing to commit attendance fraud will certainly be willing to commit appeals fraud. When that happens, the policy will not be able to stop those students that it tries to stop. The only people affected by the policy will be those with legitimate excuses.

Another problem is that the system seems to place a wall between the school and the parents. Instead of establishing a cooperative framework to encourage student attendance the new rule seems to shift the blame onto parents and students. It implies that parents do an inadequate job of motivating their children to attend school. Also, it says that parents can not decide for themselves whether certain events or activities might take precedence over school. Finally, it seems to imply that parents are partly responsible for facilitating attendance fraud by providing fraudulent notes for students to bring to school. Although the policy may be partially correct on all three counts certainly the school should try to establish a meaningful relationship with parents to increase attendance. The school should not blame parents.

Finally, the designation of 75% attendance as being the threshold below which education ceases to be meaningful serves to prove the policies internal contradictions. First, given that most of the student body can easily attend 75% of English classes the only people that the policy could possibly affect are those with extreme out of school commitments, like debate, exchange trips, science fairs, or long term illnesses. The average student, even one who regularly practices attendance fraud, will almost never come in danger of missing more than one quarter of his classes. The only people who would ever miss that much are exactly the type of students that the administration should be encouraging, not harassing. Instead of creating a system where students with extended absences could make up work more efficiently and accurately, the school has forced them to travel through a bureaucratic layer of appeals just to be eligible to make up work.

Unfortunately, the only way the new attendance policy could have any coherent sense is if it did not allow any exemptions to the 25% rule. Underlying the policy is the notion that class discussions are a fundamental and irreplaceable part of learning. Given that, no activity, school related or otherwise, can be justly exempt because being present in class is a paramount concern. At the point debate, science, or exchange-program field trips are allowed under the appeals process the policy concedes that class discussions are not actually the most important thing about education. At that point the necessity of attendance becomes very tenuous given the academic tracking systems already in place: tests. If students can miss class discussion because of school related extra-curricular activities then certainly tests are enough of an academic check to maintain high learning standards.

The attendance policy put forth this year by the English Department certainly tries to tackle a serious problem. Unfortunately, it misses the mark completely. It does not affect members of the student body that practice attendance fraud. It hurts students that it should help. Lastly, it leaves the fundamental problems creating low attendance intact, namely the inability of some faculty members to make their classes attractive to their students.

"Welcome to LHS"

Aristocratic Senate Must Change its Stubborn Ways

Last year, the Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate passed legislation raising the student community service requirement for incoming students from twenty hours to forty hours. The Senate was wrong to pass this legislation. A representative body shouldn't act to impose rules on those who aren't represented in that body. In an attempt to fix this unfortunate situation a bill has been submitted into the Senate which would allow incoming classes choose whether they would prefer twenty or forty hours of community service.

Senate is a representative body. It acted as if it were an aristocratic body, ruling over an uniformed, unintelligent group of students. The proper function of Senate is to pass legislation that serves the interests of the students. Passing a bill forcing incoming classes to do extra community service without input from those classes is contrary to Senates purpose: to give all students a voice in school policy. Senate acted like an elite organization of superior thinkers. Senate treated the incoming class as incompetent people, incapable of making their own decisions. Senators may have been representing their personal ideals, but they were not representing the people who would be affected by those ideals.

The Senate could easily have involved the incoming freshman class in the debate over this bill. The new bill being proposed would allow the incoming freshman class decide what it wants. In order for them to make an informed decision, someone must educate them about community service. If Senate feels that it is justified in forcing the freshmen to work for an extra twenty hours, Senate should also spend some time teaching the freshmen about community service. Senate could order a mandatory assembly for the freshman class at which people could speak about the merits of a service increase. Once the freshman class has been informed concerning the ramifications of the twenty hour increase, they could decide whether or not they supported it.

If the students decide not to raise the community service requirement, that is the will of the people. If senators refuses to pass this bill because they are afraid that an informed student body will choose not raise the requirement then they are acting as rulers, not as representatives. Students, especially the freshmen, should stop letting the Senate get away with this type of behavior. We, the students of Lexington High School, do not need an aristocratic body making decisions for us. If Senate stops acting as a representative body its function at LHS must be reexamined.

—David Eisner

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am sorry to hear that Lexington High School is now effected by racial tension and indeed, an outburst of violence due to growing racial hostility. I believe that you must take this moment in hand and use it to transform the tension, hostility and confusion into self-examination, new awareness, changed attitudes and new behaviors on the part of young people and adults in the school community.

To make this difficult and negative situation into one from which we can learn and grow you must use new approaches, since approaches of the past have not prevented continued and escalating tensions. Please, open the high school to the input of the many adults and students who are already engaged in promoting unity among all people. The situation is complex and LHS desperately needs to make a special effort; it needs to devote a substantial and special time to replacing hostility and intolerance with respect and harmony. I propose:

• That LHS prepare two days (Unity Days) of workshops, discussion groups and presentations for the entire school community in which conflict resolution, race relations, tolerance of diversity and basic human respect are the focus.
• That all other school functions be suspended for those two days and that all faculty, staff and students be required to participate in the programs, and that parents whose children have been involved in violence encouraged to participate.
• That these "Unity Days" occur on an emergency basis, within two weeks, so that everyone will understand the importance of solving the existing problems before any further destructive incidents occur.
• That proposals for ongoing positive changes which result from the work done, be consider for implementation by the School Committee and the LHS Senate.

You know I am an activist in the schools and in the community around issues of diversity. We both know of the many skilled and dedicated people who are continuously working on diversity in the curriculum, in the personnel, in the atmosphere in the community, in housing, in media coverage, etc. Now it is time to take a quantum leap into a proactive approach to the problems that exist in the relationships among LHS students.

There are so many people who care about the students, who care about the issues, who care about each other as human beings—that I know we can pull our many resources together help the students and their families seek and find good answers now and for the rest of their lives.

—Kay Bell

This letter was addressed to Lexington High School Principal David A. Wilson

Dulong Switches Math for the SAC

"Dulong" from Page 3

would like to make, the first thing he thought of was the back room of the SAC. He wants to make it more comfortable to hang out in. Dulong is encouraging new activities and programs although he believes it's up to the students to think of more diverse and new activities. "I'm willing to do whatever the kids are looking for," he declared.

The recent sports rally was a new program enthusiastically received by the students. "I thought it was a great way to bring the teams together," said senior Jen Berg, a tri-captain of the girls swim team.

"I thought it was a great idea, and I loved the dancing," commented senior Lolly Axley.

Another one of Dulong's goals is to get different students to respect each other. He thinks that each group has particular talents that should be respected by others. For example, he would like athletes to respect Drama club members, and Drama club members to respect math team participants. Dulong believes all groups work extremely hard, and would like to "break down barriers" between them.

Dulong commented that it was very hard stepping into Mr. Robinson's shoes. Dulong and Robinson have been friends for years, and he believes that Robinson did a terrific job as assistant principal.

Additionally, Robinson has left friendships with students at LHS that can't be replaced. As Mr. Dulong says himself, "I can't be Mr. Robinson!" Of course not, Mr. Dulong. You'll do just fine being yourself.

Senior Lee Fuoco enjoys some fine literature in the student library.

Photo by April Bovet

Weinstein's Success Reaches Worldwide

by
Erin Carlson

Did O.J. do it? Will democracy stick in Haiti? Will Kennedy be re-elected? Many things remain uncertain in this volatile world. One thing remains undisputed: the success of Jonathan Weinstein. During the second and third weeks of July, former LHS student and current Harvard freshman, Weinstein was competing in an international math competition in Hong Kong. He helped America to a first place gold medal in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO).

The U.S. sent six students to overtake favorite and defending champion China. All six students earned perfect scores. This victory created quite an exciting summer for Weinstein and his teammates. LHS Math Team Advisor Saleh Rahman recalls being "absolutely ecstatic" about the success of his student, Weinstein, and more generally about the country's performances. "This is the first time in thirty-five years that [all of the participants] achieved perfect scores," he noted.

Going into the contest the United States contingent hoped to do well. They knew it would be very difficult to take the gold from China, which had placed first several times in years past. "We won a victory for the free world," Weinstein joked about the upset. More seriously, Weinstein explained that he most liked, "getting to know all the other kids from around the world."

The actual competition was intense. For two days participants from all over the globe took several four-and-half hour examinations each consisting of just three questions. To receive full credit competitors had to justify all their derivations and proofs with written explanations. "You have to play around with it a little," Weinstein explained of his test-taking technique.

The road to the IMO competition is particularly grueling. It started early last year with a test known as the AHSME, the American High School Mathematics Exam. The 350,000 students who scored highest on this exam proceed to the next level called the American Invitational Mathematics' Examination or AIME. Here, the cut is made at 5,000 students. Students who score well on both exams are invited to participate in the USAMO, the USA Math Olympics. Three Lexington students qualified for this prestigious competition: Weinstein, senior Peter Jung and Tim Shiau. 143 other students from around the country also qualified to participate in the USAMO. The USAMO is the final cut to the international competition. The six best competitors are chosen to represent the United States at the IMO. From the almost half million students who originally tried out, Weinstein brought home the gold.

Weinstein has practiced his skill since early childhood. Georgia Weinstein, Jonathan's mother, explained that Jonathan's interest in math first took the form of a "Little Professor" calculator that he played with when he was five. Mrs. Weinstein also noted the "tremendous amount of support" that Jonathan received from Dr. Claire Zalewski. Jonathan began taking high school math classes in the fifth grade. While the rest of the fifth grade mastered the art of long division and multiplication tables, Jonathan studied Geometry.

Stardom has been fruitful for the Weinstein family. The IMO received national coverage; publications including Newsweek, People, Time, and the New York Times all featured the event. "The Boston Museum of Science did a nice bit," commented Mrs. Georgia Weinstein, Jonathan's mom, regarding the free lifetime passes that Weinstein received.

Jonathan Weinstein recently achieved a perfect score in an international mathematics competition in Hong Kong. This achievement helped the United States win a gold medal.

Photo courtesy of Lexington Minuteman

Cahoot's Macbeth Taking Form

by
Jonas Woolverton

Would you risk your life to perform Shakespeare? That is the question confronting us in LHS' fall play, "Cahoot's Macbeth." In fact, the question is not absurd at all, for the play was inspired by actual events. Tom Stoppard, the playwright of "Cahoot's", became intrigued with two Czechoslovakian actors who resisted a censorship of the arts imposed by a fascist regime. As testimony to humankind's natural desire to create, the two actors would travel around Czechoslovakia with a suitcase filled with props and would perform Macbeth in the living room of those who wanted to see it.

Cahoot's follows a very similar plot, for it opens with an acting company performing Macbeth in a living room under the threat of a fascist government. Eventually what occurs is that a fascist "inspector," played by Oliver Sellers, enters the apartment looking for "subversive' material in the text. The inspector describes the reasons for his regime's censorship when he says, "...the problem is when you get a universal and timeless writer like Shakespeare, you never now when he's spitting in the eye of the beholder when he should have kept his mind in Verona..." Then the inspector repeatedly interrupts the performance to mock the text and the actors. It is from his mockery that we learn how denigrated the actors have been under the heavy presence of censorship. All are forced to work at menial jobs while prohibited from acting. It is only in this living room that they transcend all threats in order to perform. And it is not until a character by the name of "Dog," who speaks the language of "dog," enters into the plot, that they find a way to perform Macbeth that utterly confuses the inspector. Hence, the actors disguise their performance of Macbeth in Dog's language.

Steven Bogart, LHS drama teacher and director of the show, is not going to stop there either. He has added more text from Shakespeare's Macbeth into the show and promises that the acting company's version of the play will be "way-out and off the wall." His version of "Cahoot's" will be set in present day American and will deal with, "restrictions that certain people and governmental agencies want to enforce on the arts."

Like all Bogarrtian shows, this one will operate on different levels both political and artistic. At times the show will be a biting satirical comedy and at other moments the show will be, as Bogart says, "moving and powerful." The theme of defiance runs rampant through this piece and he and the cast are making it a point to have that theme reflected through Shakespeare's Macbeth when it is performed in "Cahoot's Macbeth".

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The Boys' Soccer season remains hazy as team members search for an answer to midseason doldrums.

Photo by April Bovet

Boys' Soccer Marked by Troubling Start

by
Jason Miller

This year's boys varsity soccer team is off to a 2-3-3 start, behind five assists from striker Curtis Teixeira. Although the record does not shine brightly, one can be optimistic that the LHS team has already met the Middlesex League's two strongest teams, Reading and Woburn, losing only by a combined 10-0 margin.

Leading the way for the Minutemen in goal is senior Rich Fournier. The defense is a combination of centerbacks senior Justin Kinner and junior Anson James and fullbacks senior Paulo Ribeiro and sophomore antagonist Greg Costello. Costello was put into the starting lineup just one day after making the final cut.

All three interior midfielders are seniors, Jeff Rutti, captain Sam Handlin, and Jason Miller as the replacement. The aggressive trio have been effective at that position.

Senior Brad Samuels joins Teixeira as the other striker. The gritty senior captain Samuels has played all of his games wearing a shoulder brace. Samuels (2 goals, 1 asst) dislocated his shoulder in a pre-season scrimmage at Clarke Middle School.

In Lexington's first win, a 4-0 victory at Watertown, Lexington flat outplayed the Raiders, as Samuels knocked in a pass from Teixeira to open the scoring. The second goal was blasted in by senior Ron Abrons from the left flank. Samuels crossed him the ball, and Abrons sent it flying back across the field and into the top right corner of the net.

The second Minuteman win came at Melrose by a tally of 1-0. The first half was extremely frustrating as several sure shots were missed. Fournier did an excellent job of keeping his team in the game, coming up with some big saves.

Finally, in the 68th minute, the Teixeira-Samuels duo combined for the game-winner. James threw the ball in to Teixeira, who rolled it to Samuels. The rest as they say, is history. Lexington held on to get the W, in a Middlesex League that has seven teams vying for third place.

The following day, the team took the field against arch-rival Burlington with high energy and high hopes. Lexington got on the board first when Ribeiro stopped a Burlington attack and sent the ball to junior Dan Clarke. Clarke passed it to Samuels, who crossed it to Handlin. Handlin turned on his man and found Clarke streaking down the sideline. Clarke was met by Burlington goalie, Dennis McGonagle, but still skipped the ball into the net.

Seven minutes later, Burlington struck back when Burlington striker Greg Beers blasted it past Fournier. The game remained a draw, but unfortunately, the Minutemen saw injuries befall Teixeira, Costello, and Clarke. None were deemed too serious, but the team needs to stay healthy to make a run for the playoffs.

Overall, the team is good this year. Unfortunately, the Minutemen must win all of their remaining games to make the playoffs. If the squad can catch a few good breaks, who knows, maybe they can do like the football team did and defeat a top ranked team, like Manchester United, in the coming weeks.

Field Hockey Swings into Super Start

by
Stefanie Berman

When the LHS field hockey team shut out Wakefield by a score of 5-0 in the opening game of the season, Coach Sandra Curt became one of an elite group of coaches to have amassed 400 regular season wins. After falling one game short last season, this year's strong squad hit the milestone and has not stopped there. The LHS team is off to an impressive 5-2 start, and is on track to return to the tournament for yet another year.

The LHS team this year is certain to be one of the best. With eight returning varsity players, experience is an asset to the squad. The team is also young with eight juniors in the starting lineup.

"We have a lot of potential this year," commented Coach Curt. "We have a skilled junior class and good leadership from the seniors."

The blend of the old and new players in this year's team caused some problems at the outset, but now it appears that everything has started to "click." A definitive 3-1 win over Melrose was evidence of the skill, and togetherness that exists on the team. Melrose was allowed only three shots as Lexington was at its best.

The team unit has only been broken down twice this year when Lexington suffered losses at the hands of longtime rivals, Watertown and Reading. The Reading game however, was one that team members agree should not have gotten away. Although Lexington dominated for most of the game, over doubling Reading's shots on goal, the visitors scraped by with a 2-1 victory.

"We lost the Reading game because we were lacking the effort that we normally have," commented a frustrated senior tri-captain Courtney Walton.

"The Reading game set us back a little," agreed Anderson. "But now we are back on track and playing at the level we should."

In only seven games to date, Lexington has dominated the offensive game frequently, outscoring their opponents by a total of 18-7. Leading this rampage are junior Morgane Landel (6 goals), junior Lisa D'Antuono (6 goals), senior tri-captain Maura Woessner (2 goals), and junior Amy Porter (2 goals). "Last year we had trouble scoring, but we've improved a lot since then," commented Woessner.

With these numbers, scoring apparently is no problem this fall.

Girls' Field Hockey members have had their practice pay off in the form of a stellar 8-3-1 season.

Photo by April Bovet

Senior Meg Catteral practices some fancy footwork. Sadly, the team can not makes it's winless season disappear

Photo by April Bovet

Girls' Soccer Still Searching for Victory

by
Julie Bonner

Despite a rough start, the LHS rls' soccer team is determined to hange its status, and its 0-10-2 cord, in the extremely competive Middlesex League.

Three powerful squads, Winchester, Wakefield, and urlington, rank in the Boston lobe's top twenty soccer teams in e state. Additionally, countless njuries have hindered the LHS am's performance.

A cure may be in sight for the osing streak and the walking ounded, who have kept trainers e trainers busy this fall. Coach ebbie Childs has mixed up the ne-up, challenging the competion. Senior Caroline Kasparian, a ormer striker, has moved back to sweeper, solidifying the defense. Seniors Jessica Hurt and Katharine Westfall have switched positions to forward and halfback, respectively.

Julie Bonner and Christine Oberto, who returned this week from injuries, plan to maintain the offensive and defensive pressure in the midfield.

The backfield is supported by a motivated group of senior leaders who include fullbacks Lacey Clarke, and Theresa Luongo, and middies Darlene Meehan, Meg Catterall, Camille McGregor, and Robin King.

A recent bout with Melrose yielded more goals in a single game than in the entire season for the frustrated LHS soccer team. A powerful outside shot from junior Lisa Rycroft sparked the rally. The next two goals came late in the second half.

From a forward pass, junior Ginny McCauly scored in the upper far corner of the goal. Later, Bonner, "using her head," assisted Westfall in the final goal. Though the contest resulted in a 6-3 loss, the game ended on a positive note with the successful Lexington scoring attack.

Young, new faces have turned out impressive performances in recent games. Freshman forward Coffman and sophomore stopper Jackie Yerardi have kept their opponents busy.

Freshman Andrea Pawliczek and junior Lilly Filip, both goalies, have gained valuable varsity experience.

The team hopes it will be able to get a victory under its belt before the season ends.

The football team could jump for joy during its biggest win in school history over over Woburn. Unfortunately, the rest of their games have caused them to land back on earth.

Photo by April Bovet

Miracle Win Offsets Slow F-Ball Start

by
Aron Shapiro

Fresh off one of the biggest upsets in Lexington High School sports, the Minutemen were not able to continue their winning ways as they went down by a score of 21-9 to Wakefield on September 30 putting their record at 1-2-0. Lexington scored first with a 20 yard field goal by Zimmerman, yet was unable to hold off the Wakefield offensive. The Minutemen scored again on the last play of the game, on a 15 yard touchdown run by QB Carlow. However, this proved to be too little, too late.

The week prior to the Wakefield game, pitted against the Boston Globe's third highest ranked football team in eastern Massachusetts, the Woburn Tanners, the Minutemen were picked by everyone for another loss. However, this LHS team shocked everyone and pulled off an upset victory over Woburn by a score of 13-6.

During the week of practice before the Woburn game the team lost tight end/ defensive end senior Andrew Fortmann and defensive nose guard senior Mike Piantedosi to injuries. The team "needed to play better than their best in order to beat Woburn," claimed Head Coach William Tighe.

From the start of the game the Minutemen were fired up. The Tanners were able to advance into Minutemen territory but were forced to turn over the ball by a Lexington defense that only allowed one Woburn touchdown the whole game.

Lexington's first touchdown came with 50 seconds left in the first quarter. Senior Jeremy Hartman (18 carries, 143 yards) sprinted down the sideline for a 77 yard touchdown that put the team up 7-0. Later, in the second quarter Hartman scored again on a 1-yard run that put the Minutemen ahead 13-0.

On a drive that took only two minutes off the clock Woburn was able to narrow the Lexington lead to 13-6. The extra point attempt was no good as senior Alex Zimmerman came smashing through the line and blocked the kick.

The last Woburn threat came with two minutes left in the game. In order to score Woburn needed to pass against a Lexington secondary that was excellent the whole day. Gritty Captain Frank Carlow intercepted a pass thrown by massive Woburn QB Steve Donaghey to put the game away for Lexington. The Minutemen went on to win 13-6.

Following the win Tighe confessed, "I didn't think the team could win. They pulled off the biggest upset in Lexington history." The mood of the team was tremendously upbeat after the win. Several players were very outspoken as to Lexington's chances at winning the League and perhaps going to the Super Bowl.

Cross-Country Teams Off to Running Start

by
Phillip Oliff

The girls began their season with a 33-22 loss to an extremely tough Woburn team, but bounced back immediately to record an impressive 22-39 victory over Wakefield. Currently, their record stands at 3-1.

The team, half composed of newcomers, has shown an immense amount of promise thus far.

"The performance of the girls team has indicated that they have the making of a very good team," said Coach Philip Crosby. "Our goal this year is to qualify for the All-State meet, a feat that has never been accomplished by a girls team here at Lexington."

The boys' team, which at one point in the recent past rattled off seven straight league titles and 67 consecutive victories lost seven key varsity members to graduation this year.

Things have been tough for the young squad thus far. In their first meet they went against Woburn, " one of the two best teams in the state," according to ex-coach Dulong, now Assistant Principal for Student Affairs.

The Minutemen were crushed by the powerhouse Tanners 15-49. After losing their second meet against Wakefield, 20-36, the Minutemen have won their last two match-ups, giving them a record of 2-2.

Though the girls' team is relatively inexperienced, they are very much focused on a common goal. Sophomores Sarah Day and Ellen Humphrey have come to the forefront showing leadership in their efforts.

> "I can clearly see that each kid is 100 percent invested in the sport. . . everyone's effort is there and they really pull together as a team."
>
> *—Jeff Glew*
> *Cross-Country Coach*

They are followed by senior newcomer and co-captain Gayle Holt, freshman Amanda Hopkins, junior Ellen VanWert, junior Becky McCarthy, senior co-captain Shira Miller-Jacobs, sophomore Chi-An Wang, sophomore Vicki Losick, and junior Jantrue Ting.

Tri-captains Holt, Miller-Jacobs, and senior Julie Howell have been effective in their leadership and have helped to maintain a remarkable sense of team unity.

"The team has really come together in terms of supporting each other," stated Miller-Jacobs. She and the rest of the team agree that this is one of the most important factors in the team's promising beginning.

Despite the seemingly negative start the boys have not lost faith. They continue to pursue their goal of being a factor in the Middlesex League with unbending determination.

Senior co-captain Josh Curtis summed up the team's attitude when he stated, "I think we're a good team. We're a young team, but we're going to grow." Curtis has stepped into a leading role this year both in his running and in his role as captain.

Despite the pressure, Curtis has performed remarkably well. Behind Curtis are junior Dave Myung, sophomore Geddes Golay, junior Phil Oliff, junior Mike Hemond, senior Yun Yung, sophomore Steve Hart, and sophomore Larry Liff.

When asked to describe this year's boys team, first year Coach Jeffrey Glew responded, "I can clearly see that each kid is 100 percent invested in the sport. . . everyone's effort is there and they really pull together as a team."

Junior Petra Slezak has helped pace the super start of the Girls' Volleyball Team which currently stands at 9-2.

Photo by April Bovet

The Girls' Swimming Team is making a splash this year as the team has dived out to an undefeated, 4-0, start.

Photo by April Bovet

Hats Off To Volleyball

by
Cynthia Lin

With a triumphant 2-0 win over Lynnfield to start the season, the LHS girls' volleyball team has continued to pound down its opponents, with a current record of nine wins and two losses.

One of the blemishes on the team's record so far is the loss to Lincoln-Sudbury. Despite strong serving in the first match by Hales that gave Lexington a 6-0 lead, the Lincoln-Sudbury squad was able to take control and slip by with a three point win in the first match.

Unfortunately, the second match of the game was almost a carbon-copy of the first. Despite a great block by junior Torfay Sharifnia late in the game that revived the team's hopes, they never got that last point.

Lincoln-Sudbury won the best of three game in only two matches.

Fortunately for the team, the shattering defeat against Lincoln-Sudbury did not prevent them from getting back into the winning habit. More representative of the team's ability were its 2-0 triumphs over Lynnfield, Acton-Boxboro and Hamilton-Wenham. In the game against Lynnfield, LHS held its opponents to less than four points in both matches.

The Lexington team also powered its way to a fast defeat of Acton-Boxboro, who was on the court for only 30 minutes before it went down in defeat to LHS. Even Hamilton-Wenham, traditionally a strong competitor in the league, did not stand a chance.

The greatest asset the team has this year is its unity and team spirit. Junior Talin Getzoyan explained, "We all have the same goals, and we always encourage each other."

The team's frequent dinners and "dress code" on game-days are evidence of their enthusiasm and togetherness.

With this type of spirit, the team hopes to advance far in this year's tournament.

Varsity Scoreboard

as of 10/13/94

Team	W-L-T
Cross-Country	
Boys'	3-5
Girls'	5-3
Field Hockey	8-3-1
Football	1-3
Soccer	
Boys'	2-6-4
Girls'	0-10-2
Girls' Swimming	4-0
Golf	4-4
Volleyball	9-2